

Morrison, Chris

From: Fish, TJ <tjfish@lakesumtermmpo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:11 AM
To: Arnold, Bradley; Brenda Brasher; Gray, Darren; Diane Lamb; Dolly Miller; Glenn Irby; Jay Evans; Jim Gleason; John Drury; Juli D'Agostino; Kitty Cooper; Kris Kollgaard; Mark Johnson; Michael Quinn; Paul Berg; Ralph Bowers; Robert Smith; Sarah Snider; Tom Eberle; Troy Bennett; Vince Ruano; Wayne Saunders
Cc: Richmond, Pamela
Subject: FW: SunRail Sample Resolution and Letter of Support
Attachments: image002.jpg; Sample Letter of Support to Gov Scott May 2011.docx; 2011-() Support of SunRail Sample for Member Governments.doc

Administrators - The below e-mail was sent to MPO Governing Board members and government clerks. I wanted all administrators to be aware of the MPO request. The requested letter may be a document your mayor or chairman is prepared to sign. Otherwise, action may be needed by your elected body to authorize signature of the letter or approval of the resolution if desired. SunRail will prove to be a benefit to our region as it would open new opportunities in transportation. Should Gov. Scott kill the overwhelmingly supported project, it would represent not just an end to a landmark transportation project, but the action would be yet another hit to governance in Florida.

T.J. Fish, AICP
Executive Director
Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization

Promoting Regional Transportation Partnerships

From: Richmond, Pamela
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:00 AM
To: Bill Polk; Bonnie Nebel; Campione, Leslie; Chris Bell; Debbie Flinn; Debbie Stivender; Dennis Wood; Don Burgess; Doug Gilpin; Ed Wolf; Eric Olson; for Warren Maddox; Garry Breeden; Glenn Burns; Jack Hogan; Jake Farley; James Gearhart; Jeff Krull; Hill, Jennifer; Jim Richards; Conner, Jimmy; Joe Saunders; Joe Saunders; Joe Wynkoop; John Griffin; Kathie Joiner; Kirby Smith; Lori Pfister; Parks, Sean; Pete Petree; Peter Tarby; Randy Mask; Ray Goodgame; Robert Thielhelm; Ronald Allen; Rosanne Brandeburg; Sanna Henderson; Sharon Kelly; Sharon Kelly; Sue Hooper; Tony Rosado; Ty Miller; Cadwell, Welton; William Ferree; Bradley Arnold; Brenda Brasher; Diane Lamb; Dolly Miller; Glenn Irby; Gray, Darren; Jay Evans; Jim Gleason; John Drury; Juli D'Agostino; Kitty Cooper; Kris Kollgaard; Mark Johnson; Michael Quinn; Paul Berg; Ralph Bowers; Robert Smith; Sarah Snider; Tom Eberle; Troy Bennett; Wayne Saunders
Cc: Fish, TJ; Goldfuss, Susan; Betty Richardson; Connie Webb; Diane Gibson Smith; Gwen Johns; Jan McDaniel; Jane Warren; Jessica Douglas; Joy Coleman; Judy Roberts; Karen Howard; Marena Roberts; Michelle Hawkins; Nancy Barnett; Booth, Niki; Rich Hoon; Teresa Begley; Tracy Ackroyd
Subject: SunRail Sample Resolution and Letter of Support

Governor Scott put SunRail on hold while he reviews the contracts to determine if he believes it is a good decision for Florida to move forward with the project. The subject was discussed at the April Lake~Sumter MPO Governing Board meeting. The Board requested that each member government be provided a sample resolution of support for SunRail and also a sample letter to Governor Scott that can be used by an individual, business, or board expressing support for SunRail. Staff has drafted two documents for your use.

Please provide the MPO with a copy of your signed resolution and/or letters you send to the Governor. The MPO is putting together a packet of support documents to mail to the Governor and would like to include your documents in our package.

Thank you for your assistance.

Pamela Richmond, AICP
MPO Project Manager
[\[cid:image002.jpg@01CC0FC2.38C88840\]](#)

1616 South 14th Street
Leesburg, Florida 34748
Ph: (352) 315-0170
Fx: (352) 315-0993

[www.LakeSumterMPO.com](http://www.lakesumtermmpo.com/)<<http://www.lakesumtermmpo.com/>>

"Promoting Regional Transportation Partnerships."

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SUNRAIL

Insert Date

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of the State of Florida
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol 400
South Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL
32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

_____ would like to convey **OUR/MY** strong support of SunRail and urge you to approve the contracts necessary so SunRail may move forward. **WE/I** believe SunRail will serve as a spine for a larger regional transit network and the foundation for new passenger rail projects throughout the state. SunRail will become an integral part of Central Florida's balanced multi-modal transportation system, greatly enhancing the mobility of the traveling public, improving our quality of life and boosting our economic growth opportunities.

An efficient transportation network is paramount to sustaining existing economic activity and is necessary to attract new business. Traffic flow in Central Florida has long been a major obstacle when businesses consider our area for either expansion or relocation. Right now, every community of every size across the country is looking to attract new jobs, especially high paying jobs. **WE/I** believe that SunRail will provide an innovative transportation option that will make our region stand out among the competition and help us draw new jobs and industry to our communities.

A recent economic impact analysis shows that SunRail will stimulate \$981 million in commercial business sales and 11,500 jobs in construction and operation of the system over the next thirty years. The analysis also estimated the secondary or indirect economic impacts of the workers who spend their earnings in the area will exceed \$2.5 billion.

Governor, this is an opportunity that is desperately needed in Central Florida. It is critical to Central Florida's long-term success and will stimulate tremendous economic growth and job creation. Without SunRail, we face losing our competitive edge to attract new enterprise to our region and weaken our ability to successfully compete for our share of the global market.

Again, **WE/I** urge you to move SunRail forward.

Sincerely,

1

2

4

8

1

4

6

9

2

5

9

1

4

5

6

37 **WHEREAS**, SunRail will greatly benefit all of the citizens of and visitors in the region, and is
38 needed in order to relieve traffic congestion in the 1-4 corridor; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, SunRail represents a strong partnership between the local, state, and federal
41 governments; and

42 **WHEREAS**, Congressman Mica and Congresswoman Brown have pledged to secure more than
43 \$300 million in federal funding for SunRail and, if not used for this project, will be lost to rail transit
44 projects elsewhere in the country; and

45 **WHEREAS**, in 2007, the Regional Transit System Vision Concept Plan was amended to include
46 the U.S. 441 Commuter Rail Corridor running from the City of Eustis in Lake County to downtown
47 Orlando, along a portion of the Florida Central Railroad right-of-way; and

48 **WHEREAS**, SunRail has the potential to contribute significantly to the successful
49 implementation of *Transportation 2035*, the Lake~Sumter MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan, and
50 provide a critical link in the creation of a statewide multi-modal transportation network; and

51 **WHEREAS**, SunRail serves as the backbone for a larger transit plan for the region and provides
52 a foundation for new passenger rail projects throughout the state's urban areas including the Orange
53 Blossom Express passenger rail initiative; and

54 **WHEREAS**, a connection from Lake County to SunRail would have long-term benefits to the
55 economy and to the quality of life of Lake County; and

56 **WHEREAS**, the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization has established a partnership
57 with the Florida Central Railroad, which leases and operates rail services along the U.S. 441 corridor; and

58 **WHEREAS**, the Lake-Sumter MPO, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, as well
59 as the municipalities of Tavares, Eustis and Mount Dora and the Florida Central Railroad, are working
60 with FDOT, MetroPlan Orlando, Orange County, the City of Orlando and the City of Apopka to initiate
61 an Alternatives Analysis for the Orange Blossom Express; and
62

63 **WHEREAS**, the successful implementation of SunRail, along with favorable results from an
64 Alternatives Analysis conducted for the Orange Blossom Express, could enable a regional commuter rail
65 connection from SunRail to Lake County, with potential stations in the cities of Tavares, Eustis and
66 Mount Dora; and

67 **WHEREAS**, implementation passenger rail will result in overall social and environmental
68 benefits, improve the quality of life in the state, stimulate economic growth, create new employment
69 opportunities, and serve as a positive growth management catalyst; and

70 **WHEREAS**, implementation of passenger rail service will become an integral part of Central
71 Florida's balanced transportation system and, with concurrent development of improvements to roadways
72 and bus transit, will greatly enhance the mobility of the traveling public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City/County (Commission) of the City/County of _____, Florida that:

1. The City/County of _____ supports the design, construction, and implementation of the SunRail Commuter Rail Project in the Central Florida area; and

2. The City/County of _____ requests the Florida Legislature and Governor continue to work in cooperation with citizens and local governments throughout Central Florida to finalize the project; and

3. The City/County of _____ requests Governor Scott to approve releasing the contracts submitted by the Florida Department of Transportation to begin construction the SunRail Commuter Rail Project and provide much needed jobs in Central Florida.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2011.

City/County (Commission) of the City/County

Insert Chairman/Mayor

This _____ day of _____, 2011

Approved as to Form and Legality:

Insert Attorney/Clerk/Administrator